savings bank accounts to the legal successor of a deceased customer;

(b) whether Government have framed any orders/regulations in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Ordinarily payment of balances standing to the credit of a deceased depositor requires the claimant to produce legally accepted evidence of title. However, to avoid the delays involved in obtaining such evidence in respect of small depositors, banks have evolved procedures whereunder the balances standing to the credit of the deceased depositors are paid to successors after obtaining certain documents such as claim application, death certificate, indemnity bond/ sureties, consent letters from other legal heirs affidavit indicating particulars of legal heirs, etc.

Now depositors have the facility of nominating the person/s to whom balances to the credit of their accounts should be paid after their demise.

**Evasion of Excise Duty by Beedi manufacturers**

1354. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a large scale evasion of excise duty by beedi manufacturers in collusion with the local excise officials in Allahabad region, especially in Gursahai Ganj, Farrukhabad; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No case of evasion of excise duty by beedi manufacturers in collusion with the excise officials in Gursahai Ganj and Farrukhabad and in Allahabad region has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above. However, as a precautionary measure, the preventive and intelligence set-up in the above regions have been further strengthened.

**Interest paid to the claimed of decision depositors**

1355. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the claimants of deceased depositors in the nationalised banks are entitled to get the full amount with up to date interest on the deposits at the time of final settlement; and

(b) if not, what are the cases in which interest on such deposits is not payable to the claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Banks are required to pay interest on the balances to the credit of deceased depositors in accordance with the directives of the Reserve Bank. Such deposits with prescribed interest upto the date of withdrawal are payable by the banks to the legal heirs of the deceased depositors.

(b) Does not arise.

**News item captioned "Customs Detain Hepatitis Kits"**

1356. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in "The Afternoon Despatch & Courier" of July 10, 1986 published from Bombay captioned "Customs Detain Hepatitis kits"; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay presented a Bill of Entry on 27-6-86 at the Air Cargo Complex, Sahar Airport, for clearing an import consignment of Hepatitis Test Kits. The importers were required to produce a Test Licence under Rule 33 of the Drugs & cosmetics Rules by the Drugs Control Authorities on 28-6-86. The Drugs Control Authorities ordered the release of the consignment on 8-7-86 after the importers had given an undertaking before them to produce the Test Licence in due course. The Bill of Entry was thereafter presented to the Customs for clearing the goods on 9-7-86 and the consignment was cleared by the Customs on the same day.

**Staff involved in Bank Frauds**

1357. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of officers and staff of the nationalised banks and other public financial institutions found to be indulging in corrupt practices, including fraud during the last one year; and

(b) what are the details of the action taken against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI). (a) and (b) According to Reserve Bank of India, the total number of bank employees involved in cases of frauds and corrupt practices and the action taken against them to the extent reported by public sector banks, for the years 1985 and 1986 (upto 31-3-86) is as given below:—

FRAUDS

| | 1985 | 1986 (upto 31-3-86) |
|---|---|---|
| (i) No. of employees convicted on charges o ffrauds | 30 | 5 |
| (ii) No. of employees given major/minor penalties | 686 | 105 |
| (iii) No. of employees out of (ii) above dismissed/dicharged/removed | 236 | 66 |
| (iv) No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in Court | 335 | 345 |
| (v) No. of employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending | 717 | 653 |
| **CORRUPT PRACTICES** | | |
| (i) No. of employees convicted on charges of corrupt practice | 4 | 2 |
| (ii. No. of employees given major/minor penalties | 387 | 90 |
| (iii) No. of employees out of (ii) above dismissed/discharged/removed | 108 | 28 |
| (iv) No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in Court | 95 | 96 |
| (v) No. of employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending (Data provisional) | 529 | 436 |

In so far as other public financial institutions are concerned, the information is not readily available.